

ratio selected from the group consisting of $\text{SO}_4^{2-}/\text{S}^{2-}$ ratio, $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}/\text{Se}^{2-}$ ratio, the $\text{TeO}_3^{2-}/\text{Te}^{2-}$ ratio, and any combinations thereof, whereby the ratio is shifted to a reduced form (S^{2-} , Se^{2-} , Te^{2-}).

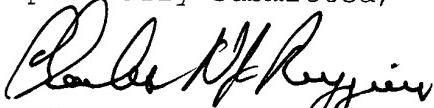
27. The method according to claim 23, wherein the glass includes an alkali (alkaline-earth) zinc (boro)silicate glass.

28. A process for melting and refining of glass or glass ceramics with the use of a device according to claim 15, wherein the reducing atmosphere is created by reducing gases or gas mixtures such as forming gas, H_2 , CO , CO_2 and other gases.

REMARKS

Claims 15 to 28 are pending in this application. Original claims 1 to 14 have been canceled. Applicants have rewritten the original claims to remove any multiple dependencies and references to the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,



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